

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00
INRE-00 SAA-01 SSM-05 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15
/104 W

-----031090 221255Z /53

O 221236Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1749
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
USICA WASHDC

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USICA FOR PGM/RC

RABAT FOR ASST SECRETARY SAUNDERS

JIDDA FOR AMBASSADOR ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PEPR EG US IS
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SUBJECT: KAMEL DISCUSSES POSSIBILITY OF ANOTHER MEETING

REF: CAIRO 17493

SUMMARY: KAMEL SAYS EGYPT READY ATTEND ANOTHER MEETING
PROVIDED ISRAEL ADOPTS POSITIVE STAND. IF SECRETARY
VANCE GIVES IMPRESSION ISRAEL READY TO DO SO, EGYPT

WOULD CONSIDER ANOTHER MEETING. IN LONDON INTERVIEW KAMEL REPORTEDLY CLARIFIED IT NOT ENOUGH THAT ISRAEL WITHDRAW FROM EL ARISH, BUT MUST ALSO DECLARE INTENTION TO WITHDRAW FROM WEST BANK/GAZA. EL ARISH WITHDRAWAL NOT DISCUSSED AT LEEDS. INCOMPATIBILITY OF EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI POSITIONS CONTINUES NECESSITATE NEW ELEMENT. ATHERTON TO VISIT JULY 28 AND VANCE AUGUST 4. KAMEL SAYS U.S. HAS NOW AGREED TO BE FULL PARTNER. EDITORIAL ATTACKS ON BEGIN CONTINUE. END SUMMARY.

1. FORMIN KAMEL TOLD PRESS ON RETURN JULY 21 THAT EGYPT WILL BE READY TO ATTEND ANOTHER MEETING PROVIDED ISRAELI CABINET ADOPTS "POSITIVE STAND" WHEN IT DISCUSSES EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL AND CLARIFICATIONS MADE TO DAYAN AT LEEDS. HE ADDED THAT IF SECRETARY VANCE, WHEN HE RETURNS TO AREA, "GIVES US THE IMPRESSION ISRAEL READY TO TAKE A POSITIVE LINE WE WILL CONSIDER POSSIBILITY OF HOLDING ANOTHER MEETING."

2. EL ARISH. ACCORDING TO AHAM, IN LONDON TIMES INTERVIEW KAMEL CLARIFIED THAT IT IS NOT ENOUGH THAT ISRAEL PLEDGE TO WITHDRAW FROM EL ARISH TO GUARANTEE RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS, BUT IT MUST ALSO DECLARE ITS DETERMINATION TO WITHDRAW FROM WEST BANK/GAZA. KAMEL ALSO DENIED THAT SADAT HAD PRESENTED NEW PROPOSALS TO WEIZMAN. HE REPORTEDLY EXPLAINED THAT SADAT UNCLASSIFIED

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AND WEIZMAN MAY DEAL WITH PROBLEM OF EL ARISH BUT, IN ANY CASE, THIS TOPIC WAS NOT RAISED AT LEEDS.

3. LEEDS. IN CAIRO STATEMENT KAMEL REPEATED EGYPT WENT TO LEEDS AT INVITATION OF PRESIDENT CARTER TO EXPLAIN EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL WHICH BASED ON 242 AND STRIKES BALANCE BETWEEN WITHDRAWAL, SECURITY GUARANTEES, AND PALESTINIAN PEOPLE'S RIGHTS. ISRAEL UNABLE TO REJECT THIS PLAN BECAUSE IT HAS A STRONG BASIS. KAMEL SAID THERE WAS NO PROGRESS AT LEEDS. INCOMPATIBILITY OF EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI POSITIONS NECESSITATES SOMETHING NEW TO HAVE ANOTHER MEETING. ISRAELIS CONTINUE TO WANT OCCUPATION OF WEST BANK AND GAZA.

4. PRESS REPORTS AMBASSADOR ATHERTON WILL VISIT EGYPT ON JULY 28 AND THAT VANCE WILL HAVE TALKS IN CAIRO ON AUGUST 4. ASKED TO COMMENT ON SECRETARY'S STATEMENT THAT NEXT MEETING MAY BE HELD IN TWO WEEKS, KAMEL SAID PERHAPS VANCE WAS OPTIMISTIC IN HOPE ISRAELIS WOULD CHANGE THEIR ATTITUDE. KAMEL SAID U.S. HAS ACCEPTED THAT IT SHOULD BE FULL PARTNER IN PEACE EFFORTS.

REGARDING AMERICAN ROLE, PAPERS THIS MORNING ALSO PROMINENTLY COVERED PRESIDENT CARTER'S INTERVIEW WITH MENA CORRESPONDENT, HIGHLIGHTING RESTATEMENT OF U.S. COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT SADAT'S INITIATIVE AS WELL AS PRESIDENT'S PRAISE FOR SADAT.

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5. BEGIN. ATTACKS ON BEGIN CONTINUE (IN GUMHURIYYA EDITORIAL), CLAIMING FAILURE OF LEEDS CONFERENCE NOT END OF WORLD BUT DEMONSTRATES AGAIN THE "REAL NATURE" OF BEGIN'S GOVERNMENT WHICH WANTS PEACE BUT ALSO "OCCUPATION AND EXPANSION."

6. COMMENT: GOE STRESS ON NECESSITY OF "NEW ELEMENTS"

FROM ISRAEL IN ORDER TO HAVE ANOTHER MEETING (REFTEL),
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SEEMINGLY SOMEWHAT SOFTENED. KAMEL SUGGESTS TALKS
COULD PROCEED NOT ONLY IF ISRAELI CABINET TAKES
"POSITIVE STANCE" BUT ALSO IF U.S. ASSURES EGYPT THAT
ISRAEL READY TO BE POSITIVE. (ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER
PLAYED LONDON TIMES INTERVIEW MORE PESSIMISTICALLY,
SAYING KAMEL "NOT HOPEFUL" AND NEGOTIATIONS CANNOT
CONTINUE UNLESS ISRAEL SHOWS IT MEANS "REAL BUSINESS.")
EILTS

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